shoujo magic
Do you believe in Magic?
In a young girl's heart...

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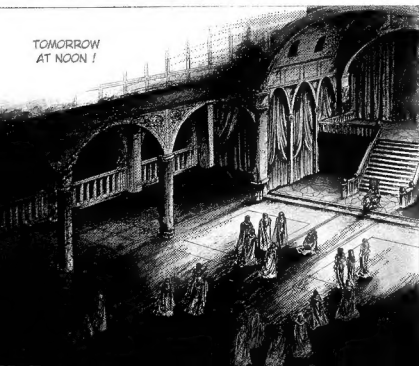
TOMORROW AT NOON !

AH HA HA HA
Hah
Hah
PRINC-ESS?
ERMINIA!?

AND YOU WOULD MAKE HIM MY HUSBAND?
THE ONE WHO MUST STOP IS YOU. I HAVE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OF YURIAS AS A MAN!
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO FUNNY, FATHER.
ERMINIA, STOP THIS INSANE LAUGHTER!!
I HAVE NO NEED OF A HUSBAND WHO IS WEAKER THAN MYSELF.
I AM STRONGER THAN YURIAS WITH BOTH SWORD AND SPEAR.
AND IF YOU WISH, I CAN DISPLAY FOR YOU HERE AND NOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR ABILITIES!

DRAW
YOUR SWORD,
YURIAS!

DO NOT PARTNER AGAINST YURIAS!
CEASE THIS IMMEDIATELY!

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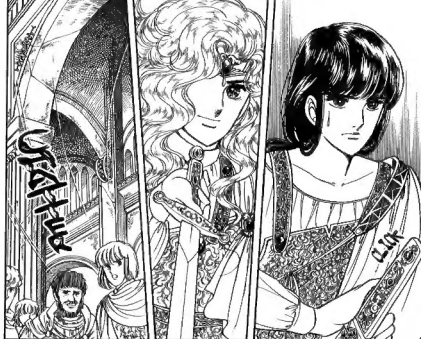
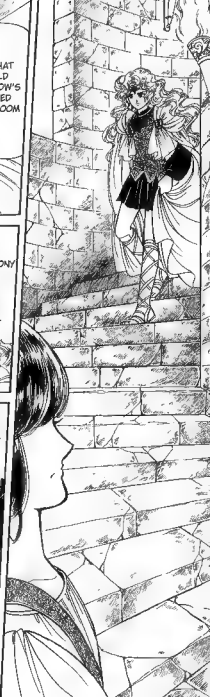

ERMINIA... AT LEAST ANSWER ME THIS.
WHAT IS IT YOU INTEND TO DO WITH YOURSELF?
WHEN HIS MOTHER DIED YOUNG, I RAISED YURIAS AS YOUR FOSTER BROTHER IN HOPES THAT YOU WOULD TAKE HIM AS A HUSBAND, BUT NOW THAT IT HAS COME TO THIS...
YOU ARE THE SOLE PRINCESS AND HEIR TO THE KINGDOM OF PAROS. ARE YOU SAYING IT DOES NOT MATTER TO YOU IF THE KINGDOM GOES TO RUIN?
THAT IS NOT WHAT I AM SAYING. JUST...

IF EVERYONE WOULD ONLY LOOK UPON ME AS A MAN, I WOULD GOVERN THE KINGDOM AS A MAN.
YOU ARE A WOMAN, NO MATTER HOW ONE LOOKS UPON YOU!
I KNOW THAT WITHOUT BEING TOLD SO FRANKLY.
Such obstinacy!!
...THERE ARE THINGS THAT I WISH TO DO.
THAT I WISH TO DO, NO MATTER WHAT.

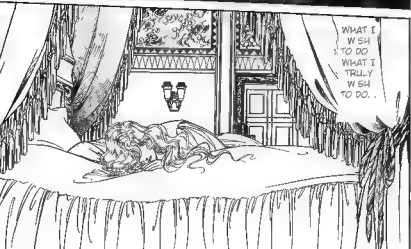
WHAT IS IT YOU WISH TO DO? WHAT IS THERE THAT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN THE PROTECTION OF THIS KINGDOM!?
IF THERE EXISTS SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT, I SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS!
......

AND WHAT SHOULD TOMORROW'S INTENDED BRIDEGROOM DO?
FOOL! IF THERE IS INDEED A CEREMONY TOMORROW, YOU SHALL BE THE ONE WEARING THE BRIDAL GOWN.
FATHER IS ALSO A FOOL FOR RAISING US AS SIBLINGS DIVIDED ONLY BY BLOOD AND EXPECTING US TO THINK OF EACH OTHER AS SOMETHING ELSE.
FUNNY.
Shoujo Magic

HE WAS CRAZY TO THINK WE COULD MARRY EACH OTHER.
DO YOU NOT AGREE, YURIAS?
ERMI-NIA...
THAT IS TOO CRUEL...
EH?
NOTHING... WHERE IS HIS MAJESTY?
I LEFT HIM OUT ON THE BALCONY.
UNDOUBTEDLY TO CURSE HIS FAILURE OF A DAUGHTER TO YAAN.

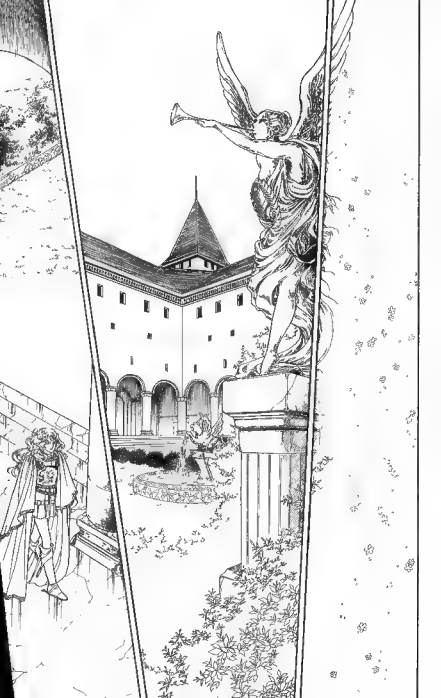
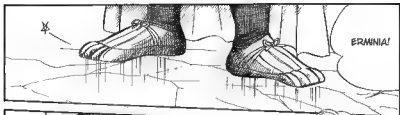
EH !?
YOU MEAN TO TELL US YOU ACTUALLY FINISHED WASHING ALL OF IT!?
AND THE DAY'S NOT EVEN OVER YET!
WE NEVER FINISH THIS EARLY EVEN WHEN ALL OF US ARE WORKING!
THAT'S RIGHT!
YEAH!
ARE YOU LYING TO US ABOUT WASHING ALL THESE?
THAT MUST BE IT! THERE MUST BE DIRT LEFT ON THEM!
WHERE, WHERE?

THAT'S STRANGE. NONE OF THEM ARE DIRTY.
EVERY LAST ONE IS CLEAN.
SHE MUST HAVE USED SOME KIND OF MAGIC, THEN!
THEY BURN ANYONE WHO USES BLACK MAGIC!
HEY, IDA, YOU DIDN'T HELP HER, DID YOU?
WHY WOULD I?
FIONA REALLY DID ALL THIS ON HER OWN?
YOUR MAJESTY, ERMINA

M'LADY, LADY FIONA
YOUR FAITHFUL KNIGHT, ERMINIA
SOMEONE LIKE YOU TRULY EXISTS IN THIS WORLD.

EVEN IF YOUR WORDS WERE ONLY N JEST ..
YOUR KIND-NESS
MAKES MY CHEST FEEL TIGHT
WHAT I W SH TO DO WHAT I TRULY W SH TO DO. .

JUST BY VIRTUE OF BEING BORN FEMALE I AM TREATED LIKE A SOULLESS DOLL WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO JOIN TWO KINGDOMS!
WHY DOES YAAN TORMENT ME
SO COMPLETELY!!
I HAVE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT MY HEART TO BE MOVED BY OR LOST TO A MAN.
NO MATTER HOW I SEARCH MY MIND AND MY HEART, I AM A BETTER MAN THAN ANY MAN.
WHY DID I HAVE TO BE BORN AS A WOMAN?

WHY MUST I ALONE CONTORT MYSELF FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM, AND FORFEIT THE ABILITY TO DECIDE MY OWN FUTURE, AND NEVER REALIZE THAT WHICH I DESIRE?
WHY MUST I BE ALONE!?

ERMINIA!
IF IT ISN'T MY UNCLE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING DRESSED LIKE THAT!? IF YOU ARE A PRINCESS IN THE BLOSSOM OF HER YOUTH, YOU NEED TO BEHAVE AS SUCH.

ERMINIA! I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO EVADE THE SUBJECT THIS TIME!!

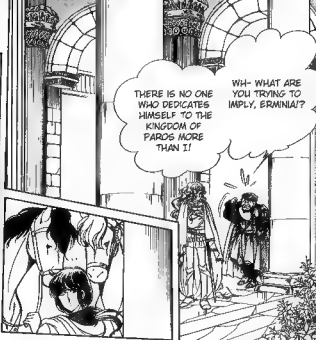
YURIAS! YURIAS, HAVE YOU PREPARED MY HORSE?

IT SEEMS MY ATTIRE DISPLEASES YOU. IN THAT CASE, I'LL REMOVE IT FROM YOUR SIGHT.

MY ELDER BROTHER SPOILS YOU TOO MUCH.

A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL FROM THE PRINCE OF KAUROS IS NOT SOMETHING THE PRINCESS OF PAROS SHOULD SO LIGHTLY REFUSE.

Hm.

YOU WOULD DO BEST NOT TO FORGET THAT BY VIRTUE OF HAVING BEEN BORN FROM A DIFFERENT MOTHER, YOU ARE ONLY THE ROYAL BROTHER OF PAROS.

PRINCE ALFONSE?
THERE IS NO ONE WHO DEDICATES HIMSELF TO THE KINGDOM OF PAROS MORE THAN I!
WH- WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPLY, ERMINIA!?
THE KINGDOM SUFFERS AN ENDLESS PARADE OF WAR, FAMINE, AND DROUGHT, AND BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF THE PREVIOUS KING, WE STRUGGLE NOW SIMPLY TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO.
PAROS PRESENTLY HAS NO GLORY TO ITS NAME!

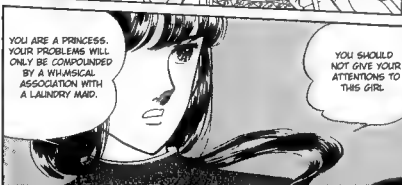
MEANWHILE, KAUROS ENJOYS A GOLDEN AGE AS THE MOST PROSPEROUS KINGDOM IN THE LAND——
INDEED! THEY ARE THE MOST PROSPEROUS BARBARIANS OF OUR TIME.
YOU WOULD SOONER BE SUCCESSFUL IN ASKING MY NOBLE FATHER TO TAKE ON ANOTHER CONCUBINE AND PRODUCE HIMSELF A MALE HEIR THAN IN REGISTERING YOUR COMPLAINTS WITH ME
LIKE YOU, NOBLE UNCLE, HE IS NOT YET TOO LATE IN YEARS FOR THAT.
ERMI-NIA!!
AND I WILL HUMBLY WORK MY FINGERS TO THE BONE AS A REGENT TO PROTECT SUCH A PRINCE UNTIL ADULTHOOD.
WAIT!
ERMINIA! PLACE YOUR FOOLISH JOKES ASIDE AND THINK SERIOUSLY ON THE MATTER OF KAUROS.

ONE SUCH AS MYSELF, WHOSE GENDER IS AN ISSUE IN QUESTION, WILL NOT BE CURED BY BEING MADE INTO THE WIFE OF SOME IDLY CURIOUS MAN.
AND NOT BY ANY NUMBER OF BARBARIAN PRINCES FROM KAUROS.
YURIAS!
HERE, ERMINIA.

HYAH!
....
....

ERMINIA, DO NOT LET YOUR GUARD DOWN AROUND PRINCE ALFONSE.
OF COURSE NOT. I HATE THAT MAN
HE IS TRYING EVERY TRICK HE KNOWS TO MARRY ME INTO THE KAUROS CLAN.
HE WOULD PROBABLY TRADE THE ENTIRE KINGDOM OF PAROS TO BECOME EVEN JUST A CABINET MINISTER OF KAUROS.
BUT AS A PRINCE OF PAROS WITH THE BLOOD OF KAUROS FLOWING IN HIS VEINS, HE WILL HAVE POWER EQUAL TO OUR KING IF THE TWO LANDS ARE JOINED.

HE IS CORRUPT.
I DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK OF SUCH THINGS WHEN A BREEZE THIS WONDERFUL IS BLOWING!
IT IS ONLY ON A LONG RIDE THAT I FEEL THE GLORY OF LIFE.
THESE PAST COUPLE YEARS, IT HAS FELT AS THOUGH I AM ATTACKED AROUND THE CLOCK WITH THIS ISSUE OF MARRIAGE, AND MY NERVES ARE IN CHAOS.
chatter

YURIAS, GO DOWN THERE AND SUMMON FIONA TO ME.

DO YOU TEASE ME AS A FRIEND?
THEN I MUST ORDER YOU NOT TO.
YOU MIS-UNDER-STAND
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THAT YOU SINCERELY BELIEVE MY FRIENDSHIP WITH FIONA TO BE WHIMSY?
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH FIONA AND "FRIENDSHIP" IS AS OOOBVIOUS TO ME AS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH
HMPH.
PLEASE GO SUMMON FIONA TO ME, YURIAS. IF YOU WILL NOT, THEN I WILL DO IT MYSELF.
KICK
I REFUSE.
THEN IT IS LEFT TO ME.
HYAH!

YOU ARE A GOOD FELLOW AFTER ALL.
ONLY THIS ONCE
I WILL GO!
FINE!
WHAT!?
WHILE WE ARE AT IT, I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD MAKE YOURSELF SCARCE AFTER FETCHING FIONA FOR ME.
YOU ARE A HOPELESSLY SELFISH PRINCESS!
VOOSH
I WOULD LIKE TIME TO BUILD RAPPORT... WITH A LITTLE BORING GIRL-TO-GIRL CHAT.

FIONA... YOU PRECIOUS GIRL DESPITE HAVING NO PARENTS YOU ARE LIVING BRAVELY AND EARNESTLY
I WANT ONLY TO CREATE BETTER MEMORIES FOR YOU BY BEING WITH YOU

FIONA.

WE CANNOT TALK HERE.
COME!
GRAB
HYAH!
Mrph
YURIAS, KINDLY WAIT FOR US HERE
LET US GO TO A PLACE WITH MORE PLEASING SCENERY.
Shoujo Magic

YAAN, I BESEECH
FOREVER GRANT ME THIS YOUNG GIRL'S SMILE..!

...I HOPE THAT SNATCHING YOU AWAY FROM YOUR WORK WILL NOT CREATE A PROBLEM FOR YOU...
N-... NOT AT ALL...
I FELT QUITE STRONGLY THAT I WANTED TO SEE YOU

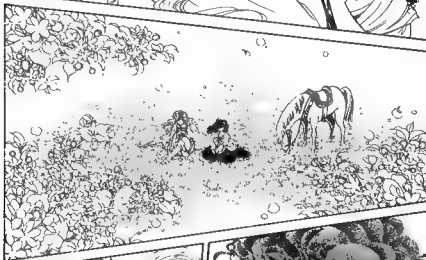
YURIAS HAS TOLD ME THAT I AM HOPELESSLY SELFISH.
I ALWAYS SEEM TO ANGER HIM FOR THAT REASON, SO I SUSPECT THAT MUST BE HOW I AM——
NO... I DON'T THINK SO...
I HONESTLY DO NOT MIND IT. IF I EXPRESS ANYTHING OF A FREE WILL AT THE CASTLE, I AM ACCUSED OF BEING SELFISH.
ONE DAY, I SIMPLY REALIZED THAT I NEEDED TO BE TRUE TO MYSELF, EVEN IF IT CAUSED OTHERS TO CURSE MY EXISTENCE.
I HAVE JUST ONE CHANCE...

ONE CHANCE TO LIVE A LIFE THAT BELONGS TO NONE BUT ME.
FIONA... WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET? DO YOU NOT ENJOY THIS TIME WITH ME?
N- NO...! IT'S JUST...
WILL THE OTHERS MAKE SPORT OF YOU FOR THIS?

YOU'RE LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A DREAM. I CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE YOU'RE TALKING TO ME LIKE THIS.
I AM WHAT?
YOUR MAJESTY ERMINIA IS...
IT'S JUST...
NO... NOTHING OF THE KIND... THEY WOULD DO THAT ANYWAY
FWUMP
IF EVEN YOU LOOK UPON ME WITH THE SAME EYES AS THEY, THEN I AM FED UP WITH IT ALL.
IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THUS.
NO, BUT YOU'RE...!
WHY SHOULD I NOT!? I AM NOTHING MORE THAN A HUMAN BEING, THE SAME AS YOU!

WHY MUST I ALONE BEHAVE AS THOUGH THE GODS DID NOT ALSO SET BLOOD FLOWING IN MY VEINS?
THE LADY-SON OF THE KING OF PAROS, LADY PRINCESS ERMINIA, IS TO CONDUCT HERSELF THIS WAY AND THAT...
A LADY PRINCESS DOES NOT RIDE A HORSE, DOES NOT STUDY THE SWORD, DOES NOT DETERMINE FOR HERSELF WHO SHE IS.
I AM TREATED AS THOUGH IT WERE A SIN TO SEE ME AS A FLESH AND BLOOD HUMAN.
SHOOP
THOSE AT THE CASTLE BELIEVE I AM SOME DOLL THAT CAN BE MADE TO MOVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR WHIMS...!
DO YOU NOT THINK SO, FIONA?
THAT I HAVE AN EQUAL SHARE OF THAT WHICH MAKES US HUMAN.
THAT I AM NOTHING OTHER THAN SUCH A HUMAN.

FORGIVE ME... I'VE STARTLED YOU.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THESE MATTERS.

I'VE... BEEN WAITING ALL THIS TIME.
I HAD A DREAM.
OR PERHAPS IT WAS REAL.
IT HAPPENED SO LONG AGO THAT I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHICH IT IS.
BUT... ONE NIGHT... WHEN I WAS VERY SMALL...

I- I...
Get out of here!!
A brat like you won't get away with this.
You worthless child!
That's right, Mama! Fiona's the one who did it!
Yeah! She's the one who broke the plates!
She said she cut the laundry line, too!
My children would not lie.
Of course. They are yours
Get out of here! As punishment, you'll sleep outside tonight!

THAT WAS A TIME WHEN NO ONE WOULD LISTEN TO ME, AND I DARED NOT TALK BACK
...SO COLD AND HUNGR AND WITH TEARS IN MY EYES I AT LAST CAME TO A STABLE
IF I HAD BEEN CAUGHT, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN PUNISHED VERY BADLY...
BUT WITHOUT THINKING I JUST CRAWLED INTO A PILE OF HAY IN THE CORNER
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
WHO IS IN HERE?

Are you. a prince?
Are you cold?
Are you going to sleep here?
I SPOKE WITH THE BOY ... JUST A FEW WORDS.
I CAN'T SAY IF IT WAS REAL OR A DREAM.

SHOOP
TWEE TWEE TWEE
WHEN I WOKE UP, NOTHING WAS WITH ME BUT THE STRAW IN MY HAIR. .
BUT. . SOMEWHERE BETWEEN BEING AWAKE AND ASLEEP, I REMEMBER THAT HE GENTLY KISSED MY FOREHEAD .
AND TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD COME FOR ME ONE DAY
I shall come for you one day
One day, without fail.

......
SUCH SAD THINGS ALWAYS HAPPENED TO ME THAT... I MAY HAVE SIMPLY IMAGINED THOSE WORDS BECAUSE I WANTED TO HEAR THEM...
BUT...
EVER SINCE THEN, I KEPT THINKING THAT THE BOY MIGHT REALLY COME FOR ME.
THE THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD BE MY PRINCE ON A WHITE HORSE

HAS BEEN THE ONE THING TO CARRY ME THIS FAR——

I DON'T HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT..
HE WOULD COME FOR A PEASANT LIKE ME.
I JUST... ONE MORE TIME.. EVEN IF IT'S FROM FAR AWAY...
I WANT TO SEE MY PRINCE WITH THAT BEAUTIFUL HAIR LIKE MOON-BEAMS

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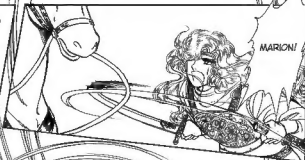
SHH!
YOUR MAJESTY . . ERMNIA?
FIONA, STAY HERE.
HIDE WITHIN THE SHADOW OF THIS TREE...
YOU MUST ABSOLUTELY NOT COME OUT WHILE THERE ARE OTHERS HERE.
LADY PRIN-CESS ...?
IF YOU DO... IT WILL MAKE THINGS MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME.

UNDERSTAND? DO NOT MOVE FROM THAT SPOT.
DO NOT WORRY. I AM VERY STRONG.
BESIDES, I AM NOT UNUSED TO THIS.
ONCE I HAVE THE LOT OF THEM COMPLETELY FOCUSED ON ME... RETURN TO YOUR FRIENDS AND SUMMON YURIAS TO MY AID.
YOUR MAJESTY ERMINIA ......!
CONCEAL YOURSELF, QUICKLY!

GALLOP
MARION!
HYAH!!
THESE KNIGHTS SHALL NOT BEST US!!

DO NOT LET PRINCESS ERMINIA, THE LADY-SON OF PAROS, OUT OF YOUR SIGHTS,
UNTIL YOU HAVE TAKEN HER LIFE!
Paros no Ken Vol 01 Ch 02/ End